

NAILSWORTH TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the MEETING of Nailsworth Town Council
held at the Town Hall, Nailsworth
on Tuesday December 18
2012

Present	Cllr S Robinson (Town Mayor) Cllr P Carter Cllr N Dart Cllr JL Duckworth Cllr A Elliott Cllr NI Kay Cllr MP Robinson
In attendance	Mr Bill Affleck Mrs Joyce Affleck
Apologies	Cllr MJ Kelly Cllr MM Rahman Cllr SE Thorpe District Cllr RTH Blackwell District Cllr E Sims

2012/159 PRESENTATION OF HILLIERS' MEDALS

Mr Bill Affleck and Mrs Joyce Affleck presented a set of medals, of historical and local interest, which they had been instrumental in acquiring for the town. Mr Affleck explained that the medals had been awarded in the early 1900s to employees of Hilliers factory by the British Dairy Farmers' Association. They had subsequently been acquired by a collector who had contacted Nailsworth News with an offer to sell them to the town. Mr Affleck had secured the medals and organised a public subscription scheme to fund the purchase. He was pleased to report that, through the generosity of Nailsworth residents, the full sum had been raised, together with a surplus of £30 to assist with the costs of storage and display, and the medals had therefore been permanently acquired for Nailsworth. The Mayor was very happy to receive the medals and the accompanying cheque on behalf of the town, and confirmed that the Council would organise their storage and public display. He thanked Mr and Mrs Affleck for their public-spirited efforts in securing these historically significant artefacts for the town.

2012/160 DEATH OF MRS BETTY MILLS

The Mayor was sad to report the recent death of Mrs Betty Mills, former Town Mayor. He commended her long service to the Council and the community. Councillors observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

2012/161 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

The minutes of the meetings held on 20 November and 29 November were approved and signed, subject to the following addition to Minute 2012/150 of the meeting on 20 November: 'Four councillors voted in support of the motion and four voted against, **with one abstention**'.

The Clerk reported SDC had advised that it would be prudent for town and parish councils to delay setting their precepts until February 2013, in the light of recent Government changes in financial regulations. Along with Cllr Kay, she would be attending an information session on the new regulations, to be organised by SDC in early January. **It was therefore agreed that the Special Council Meeting originally planned for Monday 7 January, would now take place on Monday 21 January.**

2012/162 – Councillors’ Surgeries: Minute 2012/136

Cllr M Robinson circulated a draft poster to advertise the first surgery, which would take place in the Mortimer Room on Saturday 2 February between 10.30 am and 12 noon. He would attempt to publicise the event in the local press. He reported that the County Cllr Waddington and at least one of Nailsworth’s three District Councillors hoped to attend. Cllr M Robinson planned to be there to represent NTC and suggested that it would be beneficial if one additional NTC councillor could be there. He asked any NTC councillors who planned to attend to inform him in advance if possible. Cllr Duckworth agreed to post details of the surgery on the NTC website.

2012/163 – Community Land Trust initiative: Minute 2012/139

Cllr Duckworth reported that he and Cllr Kay had held a preliminary meeting with Mr Ian Crawley regarding the possible establishment of a Community Land Trust in Nailsworth. A letter had been drafted to send to Mr Matthew Ross of SDC indicating NTC’s support in principle for such a project. The next step would be to meet with SDC to ascertain a definitive list of potential sites and to gain details of any S106 funding which might be available to support the project. GRCC had been contacted regarding the details of the Housing Needs Surveys. Cllr Kay reported that he had been researching the ‘Right to Acquire’ process and that he understood that the Social Investment Business Group potentially offered grants of up to £10,000 for feasibility studies relating to CLT affordable housing projects. Cllr Kay agreed to pursue this further and also to apply to Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum for grant aid to help fund a Housing Needs Survey. Cllr Reed advised that she had successfully applied to SDC for a grant of £500 towards a Housing Needs Survey for Nailsworth. It was agreed that the Environment Committee would take responsibility for the CLT initiative, and that Cllrs Duckworth, Kay and Thorpe, together with Mr Crawley, would be invited to attend the next meeting of that committee. Councillors confirmed Mr Crawley’s role as unpaid CLT consultant to NTC. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate for NTC to run a CLT, but that if a CLT Board was to be set up, it should include council representatives. Cllr Duckworth reported that he had set up a councillors’ page relating to CLTs on the NTC website and that he would give the appropriate link to individual councillors on request. The Mayor stated that he did not anticipate attending any future meetings relating to the CLT project, but that he would like to be kept informed of its progress.

2012/164 – Traffic Issues on A46: Minute 2012/139

The Mayor reported that the recent public meeting on traffic issues on the A46 had been well attended and productive. He felt it was important to keep a dialogue open between local residents and GCC Highways. A follow-up meeting would take place on Monday 4 February at 6pm in the Council Chamber. Cllr Duckworth reported that he had put details of the meeting on the NTC website. He planned to add a webform to enable local residents and businesses to submit comments and evidence to support the notes from the meeting.

2012/165 – Committee Structure: Minute 2012/151

Cllr Elliott reported that she had been collating the information supplied by committee chairs on the responsibilities of their respective committees. It was agreed that a training session for all councillors on possible changes to the existing committee structure would be held on Wednesday 16 January at 7.30 pm in the Council Chamber, following the Planning Committee meeting which would now start at 6.30 pm. The Clerk confirmed that no decisions could be taken at the training session, and that any proposals for change would need to be detailed and put as a motion to full council by an individual member.

2012/166 – Cotswold AONB Management Plan 2013-2018: Minute 2012/156

Cllr Kay agreed to email the draft plan to all councillors for their comments. He had been disappointed to note that the plan did not allow for the AONB Council to be automatically consulted on footpath diversions, and he agreed to make this observation in response to the consultation, and to District Cllr Rowland Blackwell in his capacity as member of the AONB Council.

2012/167 – Special Council Meeting to Discuss Proposed MUGA: Minute 2012/158

The Mayor reported that SDC Planning was still engaged in negotiating terms with FGRFC. Mr Ray Figg SDC had agreed to chase this up.

2012/168 REPORT OF COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Carter had noted that GCC's traffic survey of A46 near Dunkirk Mill indicated that 22% of vehicles surveyed had been exceeding the speed limit. He felt this was a significant proportion and should not be dismissed by GCC.

Cllr Carter reported that SDC had recently voted to change from a cabinet to a committee system of organisation. A working group had been established to progress this and the existing cabinet system would cease at the end of the civic year.

Cllr Carter explained that April 2013 would see the end of the current arrangement whereby SDC was sub-contracted by GCC to enforce on-street parking regulations. However, SDC would continue to enforce off-street parking. As a consequence of this change, SDC planned to reduce its enforcement team from 5 to 3 officers. Cllr Carter suggested that NTC should

contact County Cllr Waddington to ask him for details of the new arrangements for on-street parking enforcement in Nailsworth.

Cllr Kay advised that it was his understanding that the police would only enforce on-street parking regulations if there was an obstruction, and that their practice was to refer other enquiries to SDC.

2012/169 REPORT FROM TOWN MAYOR

The Mayor reported that he had attended a meeting of chartered parishes and towns organised by GAPTC, which included a talk on the Government's 'Community Right to Bid' initiative, the provisions of which gave local groups the right to nominate a building or other land for listing by the local authority as an asset of community value. The Mayor suggested that this provision could be used for Nailsworth Library and it was agreed to refer the matter to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for further discussion.

At the same meeting, councils had been advised that Government proposals to cap town and parish council spending were not likely to become operational until the financial year 2014/15. Consequently, it was highly advisable for councils to retain a strong working revenue for 2013/14.

2012/170 REPORT FROM DEPUTY MAYOR

Cllr M Robinson reported that he had been pleased to attend the official opening of the new chessboard which had been built and installed by the Men's Shed in the Market Street Garden. He understood that the chess pieces, which would be available for public use, would be stored at the Village Inn public house.

2012/171 REPORT FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Duckworth reported that he had recently been on the panel of judges for the Nailsworth Chamber of Trade and Commerce Christmas decorated shop window competition. He had been impressed with the number and quality of entries. He advised that the winners would be announced in the forthcoming Stroud News and Journal.

Cllr Elliott presented a report on behalf of Stroud CAB. 31 clients had been seen during the weekly surgeries at the Arkell Centre, which had been operating for 10 weeks. The most common enquiries concerned benefits, housing and employment issues. The CAB had expressed its thanks to NTC for its support. Cllr Elliott confirmed that the 6 month trial period at the Arkell Centre would cease at the end of March.

2012/172 REPORT FROM FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 5 December were approved and signed. It was agreed that the hourly rates for employees would be reviewed at the Special Council meeting on 21 January.

2012/173 REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of 21 November and 5 December were approved and signed. Cllr Carter reported that SDC had advised the owner of Setwell, Walkley Wood to withdraw his planning application pending an environmental survey of the site.

2012/174 REPORT FROM PROPERTY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 27 November were approved and signed. Cllr M Robinson reported that a contractor had inspected the **ladies' toilets on the ground floor of the Town Hall** and would be indicating a guide price for refurbishment. The architect had been instructed to draw up a specification for tenderers for the **proposed building works to the new TIC** building. It was agreed that the Police Station Working Party would in future report to the Environment Committee, but that the Working Party could make recommendations regarding the tenders direct to full council.

2012/175 REPORT FROM RECREATION AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of 11 December, presented by the Mayor, in the absence of Cllr Thorpe, were approved and signed. The Mayor explained that the **proposal for long term use of the KGV Pavilion** as an early years facility would allow for community use during the times when the facility was not operating. In response to a question, Cllr M Robinson confirmed that the terms to be negotiated with the applicant would be based on market rents.

The Clerk reported that the Town Groundsman had now spray-painted the **trip hazard in the Mortimer Gardens**.

There was some discussion regarding the implications for Nailsworth of SDC's **district-wide dog fouling policy**. Cllr Carter expressed concern at the suggestion that a dogs-on-leads policy be adopted for Norton Wood. However, Cllr Reed stated that she understood that several local residents had raised concerns about problems relating to dogs running free in the wood. The Mayor suggested that councillors could send their comments relating to dog fouling issues to SDC via Cllr Thorpe, who had arranged a meeting with SDC officers on 9 January.

2012/176 PROPOSAL FROM CLLR CARTER: TRADERS' ADVERTISING BOARDS IN NAILSWORTH

Cllr Carter outlined the background to his motion. He felt that there had been an unacceptable proliferation of advertising boards on public land in the town centre in recent months. In his view, this was unsightly and represented a potential hazard to pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities. In his view, the guidance letter on this matter which had been sent by NTC to traders in January 2012 had initially had a positive outcome, but that since then the problem had again arisen. Cllr Carter acknowledged that GCC would take action to deal with complaints regarding signboards by removing all boards on Highways land, but felt that a more targeted approach by NTC would be preferable. This should involve the sending of a strongly worded

letter to all traders not complying with the guidance given by NTC last January and an instruction to the Town Groundsman to remove the offending signs if compliance was not forthcoming.

Discussion ensued, with councillors recognising the need to balance the needs of traders to advertise their businesses with a consideration of health and safety and environmental issues.

The Clerk reported that she had recently discussed the issue with Yakub Mulla GCC Highways and he had confirmed that the NTC had no statutory power to remove advertising boards from GCC land. However, he recognised the problem and suggested that a guidance letter similar to that previously sent by NTC to traders could be re-sent, making the additional point that traders could be liable for any injury caused to the public from boards situated on GCC land. The Clerk pointed out that any traders who had not been in business when the initial letter had been sent may well be unaware of the relevant regulations. She suggested that it might be productive for NTC to write to the Nailsworth Chamber of Trade and Commerce to suggest that this issue be discussed amongst its members. However, Cllr Duckworth, whilst hoping that the newly reinvigorated Chamber would take a line on this matter at some point in the future, felt that it was not yet equipped to do so.

After further discussion, Cllr Carter agreed to amend his motion as follows: The Clerk be asked to send a strongly worded letter to all traders re-iterating the guidance given in the previous letter sent in January 2012 and including the point about liability. The amended motion was **passed** by general agreement, and Cllrs Carter and Duckworth agreed to liaise to draft an appropriate letter which would be forwarded to Mr Mulla for comment before being sent.

2012/177 ACCOUNTS

<p>RESOLVED that the list of accounts for 18 December 2012 amounting to £17,462.44 be approved for payment.</p>
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2012/178 Neil Carmichael MP – update on improvement to rural broadband services

Copies of the letter were available from the Clerk's office on request.

2012/179 Young Gloucestershire – annual report 2011/12

The report was available from the Clerk's office on request.

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Date

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Chair